



# MONTHLY NOTICES

OF THE

## ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

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No. 5

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Professor H. H. TURNER, D.Sc., F.R.S., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

The following candidates were proposed for election as Fellows of the Society, the names of the proposers from personal knowledge being appended :—

- Rafel Patxot Jubert, Passeig Bonanova 64, Barcelona, Spain  
(proposed by J. Comas Solá);
- Ole Theodor Olsen, F.L.S., F.R.G.S., 116 St. Andrew's  
Terrace, Grimsby (proposed by Edward Roberts);
- Captain Ernest William Owens, Local Marine Board, Dock  
Street, E. (proposed by Count de Miremont); and
- Captain B. T. Stevens, 44 Bennett Park, Blackheath, S.E.  
(proposed by Thomas Lewis).

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One hundred and one presents were announced as having been received since the last meeting, including, amongst others :—

M. Karl Bohlin, Sur le développement des perturbations planétaires, presented by the author; Miss A. M. Clerke, Problems in Astrophysics, presented by the author; Galileo, Opere, Edizione Nazionale, vol. viii., presented by the Italian

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Government ; A. Pannekoek, Untersuchungen über den Lichtwechsel Algols, presented by the author ; Sydney A. Roberts, Azimuths of the north pole star, latitude  $38^{\circ}$  to  $55^{\circ}$  N., for use until the year 1915, presented by the author ; Société Belge d'Astronomie, Bulletin, vols. i.-viii., presented by the Society ; H. J. Zwiers, Recherches sur l'orbite de la Comète périodique de Holmes, presented by the Leiden Observatory

Drawing of curves of sun-spots and magnetic elements, 1841-96, presented by William Ellis ; Drawings of sun-spots, 1850-1865, by J. H. Griesbach, presented by Henry Eichbaum.

Photographs of Comet *Perrine* &c., presented by V. Nielsen ; Photographs of the Moon and Nebulæ taken by G. W. Ritchey with the 40-inch refractor and the 24-inch reflector (lantern slides and transparencies), presented by the Yerkes Observatory.

*Letter from Mr. S. C. Chandler proposing the Establishment of a Southern Belt of Latitude Stations.*

*To the Royal Astronomical Society.*

16 Craigie Street, Cambridge, Mass.

I beg to submit a statement with regard to a new problem that has arisen above the astronomical horizon within the past year, and to suggest, as a practical means for its possible solution, a proposition which it seems peculiarly fitting that the Society should take into consideration, for reasons that will presently appear

I will limit the present statement of the problem in question to its general features. Its history is very short. In the course of the researches for the establishment by observation of the relative motions of the Earth's axes of figure and rotation, commonly known as the variation of latitudes, there has emerged to view quite unexpectedly an entirely distinct phenomenon. The range of its effect is small, but the evidence of its existence is too definite to permit us to assume that it is not real without the most searching examination. Whether subjective or objective, its origin must be found before we can confidently complete the analysis of the motion of the poles with which it appears entangled in the observations. Its existence is the ingenious discovery of Mr. Kimura, of the International Latitude Station at Mizusawa, Japan, and was announced by him in No. 517 of the *Astron. Journal* (1902 Feb. 14), and in No. 3783 of the *Astron. Nachrichten* (1902 April 5). The only other literature pertaining to it will be found in *A. J.*, 524, and *A. N.*, 3808, and more recently in *A. J.*, 530. All the known facts with regard to it may there be readily examined, so that it is not necessary here to go into particulars. A sufficient description of